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POLAND REBUILDS WAR-DEVASTATED INDUSTRIES

Kazimierz Korzeniewski

Polish industry was 70-80 percent destroyed during World War II. The factories were left without machines, railroad economy was half destroyed, the power plants were not in operation, the blast furnaces were extinguished, and all warehouses were burned and the cranes blown up in the ports. The industrial enterprises of Walbrzych and Jelenia Gora, alone, survived.

Today, the factories and mills are fully contributing to the development of Polish industry. In 1947, the Wroclaw and Zielona Gora car-building plants had an output of 7,500 railroad cars. The metallurgical industry in the regained territories now produces 25 percent of all Polish metal production.

Coal mines in this western territory, although not as well equipped as the old Polish mines, exceeded the annual plan. They mined over 19 million tons of coal. The paper mills, second only to the coal industry in production for export, manufactured 84 million tons of paper and 22 million tons of cardboard in 1947; 37.5 percent of this was produced in the western territory.

All branches of industry in the regained territories were reconstructed and operated. Examples of reconstruction are the Szyrna carpet factories in Krzeszyce, the painted-china factories in Walbrzych, and the cut-glass factories in Poreba.

As early as July 1945, the first freighters arrived in the ports of Gdynia and Gdansk. In October 1946, the freight turnover at these ports amounted to 900,000 tons. By May 1947, the monthly amount of freight was one million tons.

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At present, Szczecin occupies first place in the plan of reconstruction in the regained territories. Situated at the mouth of the Oder River, it must be transformed soon into a large-scale Baltic coal port. Although this reconstruction has only been started, Szczecin already has a freight turnover of over 100,000 tons of coal a month. The large ports of Kolobrzeg, Ustka, and Darlowo are also being rebuilt.

In 1945, 832,000 hectares of land were sown; in 1947, 3,200,000 hectares; and during 1948, 4,200,000 hectares will be sown.

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